population control measures to check the increasing number of leopards keeping in view the enormous depletion of forest cover and disappearance of herbivorous;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Chief Wildlife Warden, Uttaranchal has reported that the population of leopard has increased in the State from 1324 to 1961. However, it will not be appropriate to attribute in increased incidence of human killings by leopards to this increase in population. The study conducted by Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun has identified the following reasons for the increase in number of human killings:—

(i) Reduction in prey base due to increased poaching of herbivorous.

(ii) Large scale forest fires.

(iii) Degradation of wildlife habitat.

Most of the incidents of human killings have been reported from the areas where forests have degraded severely and the area in invaded by weeds like Lantana and Parthenium. The measures suggested by the above study for preventing human killings by leopards are—

(i) Clearing the bushes like Lantana and Parthenium and other species around human habitations.

(ii) Refrain from going into the forests between dusk and dawn.

(iii) Prevent forest fires.

(d) Does not arise.

Prevention of forest fires

2816. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken to prevent forest fires in Negava Hole, Bandipur National Park and other forests of Karnataka;

(b) whether it is a fact that this season, *i.e.*, 2002 the drying up of

water bodies in the forests has caused severe water problems for animals; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to provide water to animals?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The details of steps taken to prevent forest fires in Nagarhole National Park and Bandipur Tiger Reserve are:

(i) Existing firelines have been maintained by reclearing the undergrowth and burning the debris.

(ii) Fire watchers have been employed during the fire season to control any fire incidences immediately.

(iii) Fire watching towers have been constructed at the elevated places, to locate the forest fire if any and to combat it immediately.

(iv) Communication facilities and vehicles for transport of staff to the spot are also provided in cases of any forest fire noticed.

(b) and (c) These areas have received some showers recently which has improved the water situation considerably.

Coastal regulatory zone

2817. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ) came in force in early 1991, in order to protect most fragile eco-systems of India;

(b) whether Government now propose to allow non-polluting and service industries within the CRZ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that environmentalists have urged Government not to set up Special Economic Zones (SEZs) within CRZs, thereby diluting the difference between inland industrial development and coastal development;

(d) if so, the details of their demands and Government's reaction thereto; and